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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS

Letter dated 28 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Minister of External Relations of Brazil, Ambassador Luiz Felipe Lampreia, in his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Final Declaration adopted by the meeting of the Council of Ministers of CPLP held in Salvador, Brazil, on 18 July 1997 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 11 and 47.

(Signed) Celso L. N. AMORIM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Final Declaration adopted at Salvador, Brazil, on 18 July 1997 by the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries

1. The Ministers for External Relations and Foreign Affairs of Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Sao Tome and Principe, met in the city of Salvador, Brazil, on 17 and 18 July 1997 in the presence of the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (CPLP)). On that occasion, the Minister for External Relations of Brazil was elected to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

2. The Ministers welcomed the report presented by the outgoing Presidency (Portugal), in particular with regard to the installation of the Executive Secretariat, the inauguration of its Head Office and the establishment of the legal and financial framework of the Organization, which have allowed for the institutionalization of the Community and the inception of its activities.

3. The Ministers reviewed the activities of CPLP, with special focus on the plan of action of the Executive Secretariat, as approved by the Ministerial Meeting held in New York on 26 September 1996, and they reaffirmed their confidence in CPLP as a privileged instrument for consolidating, developing and enhancing their common historical ties, on the basis of the shared principles of peace, denocracy, social justice and economic progress.

4. The Ministers acknowledged the actions undertaken by the organs of the Community to implement the decisions and recommendations that had emanated from the Conference of Heads of State and Government and from the Council of Ministers, in conformity with the general guidelines contained in the Constitutive Declaration and the Statutes, in order to promote cooperation in the cultural, economic, social, scientific and legal/institutional fields, as well as to enhance political and diplomatic coordination. The Ministers were thus pleased to acknowledge the organization of several sectoral meetings and instructed the Permanent Coordination Committee and the Executive Secretariat to follow up on the implementation of the relevant resolutions.

5. The Ministers reiterated the need to strengthen the mechanisms for political and diplomatic coordination among member States with a view to safeguarding their legitimate interests in the international arena, in particular with regard to the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations system, as well as in the regional organizations of which they are members. Within the perspective of an enlargement in the permanent membership of the Security Council that ensures the integration of three developing countries and two additional developed countries, the Ministers reaffirmed their wish to support the inclusion of Brazil as a permanent member of that organ.

6. The Ministers took note with satisfaction of Portugal's election to the Security Council of the United Nations, which received the support of the member States. The presence of Portugal in the Security Council, along with that of

Guinea-Bissau in the second year of its mandate, strengthens the international visibility of CPLP and its capacity to play an active role in the United Nations system.

7. The Ministers listened to the information provided by the Minister for External Relations of Angola and expressed their concern with regard to the grave situation which threatens the full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. In that context, they reiterated their support for the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, namely, resolutions 864 (1993) and 1118 (1997), which listed a series of measures with respect to the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), and the Troika Declaration of 14 July 1997, in which the negative acts recently perpetrated by that movement were condemned in the strongest terms. To that effect, they appealed to the leader of UNITA to submit to the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) all troops who have avoided the control of the United Nations with a view to their demobilization, so as to allow for the peaceful extension of the administration of the State to the entire national territory and to facilitate the free circulation of people and goods.

8. The Ministers reaffirmed their support for the self-determination of the people of East Timor and welcomed the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Bishop Ximenes Belo and Mr. Ramos Horta. In that context, the Ministers took note with satisfaction of the new format proposed by the United Nations Secretary-General for the negotiations on East Timor, aiming at the relaunching of the tripartite dialogue and the intra-Timorese dialogue, in order to find a just, global and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, in full respect for the legitimate rights and aspirations of its population and in conformity with international law. They expressed concern with respect to the worsening situation as regards human rights violations and lack of respect for fundamental freedoms that had taken place in the Territory and demanded the full implementation of the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the issue.

9. The Ministers also took note of approved projects and of those implemented with the financial support of the Special Fund. In that context, they welcomed the important initiatives and the support from civil organizations, especially through events and projects that have contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives established in the Constitutive Declaration of CPLP.

10. The Ministers decided to adopt the recommendations emanating from the 1st Meeting of Political Officers for CPLP Cooperation, which took place at Lisbon on 16 and 17 April 1997 and which, inter alia, identified the following areas for concentrated efforts within CPLP: the strengthening of the institutional capacity of member States, the development and enhancement of human resources as well as the mobilization and coordination of efforts to promote solidarity, reconstruction and social and economic rehabilitation.

11. Regarding the promotion of the Portuguese language, the Ministers entrusted the Executive Secretariat with the convening of a meeting open to participation by representatives of governmental and other relevant entities to deepen the discussion on the creation of the international institute for the Portuguese language.

12. The Ministers took note with satisfaction of the approval by the National Assembly of Cape Verde of the Statute of the Lusophone Citizen, which establishes specific and privileged treatment for the citizens of the States members of CPLP in Cape Verde, thus facilitating the free movement of people and goods and promoting integration, to the benefit of the consolidation and the development of CPLP.

13. The Council of Ministers deferred for consideration by the Permanent Coordination Committee the examination of the proposal for the statute of the Special Fund, as presented by the Executive Secretariat.

14. The Ministers approved resolutions relating to the internal rules of procedure and the budget.

15. The Ministers approved a resolution on CPLP observer status and decided to present it for adoption at the next Conference of Heads of State and Government.

16. At the end of their deliberations, the Ministers signed the Agreement on Cooperation among the Governments of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries for the Reduction of Demand, Prevention of Undue Consumption and Combat against Production and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

17. The Ministers accepted with satisfaction the offer made by Cape Verde to host the next meeting of the Council of Ministers and took due note of the appeal by Cape Verde to other member States and at the Secretariat for their support in the organization at Praia of the forthcoming event as well as of the next Conference of Heads of State and Government.

18. The Ministers expressed to Brazil, the State of Bahia and the city of Salvador their appreciation for the warm and fraternal hospitality extended to all the participants in the meeting of the Council of Ministers of CPLP.